

The Prakhin International Literary Foundation



and



The New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education

Announce a Student Fine Art, Literary Award

Theme

The Evils of Stalin Between 1924-53

Including his involvement during the Holocaust (1933-45)

The Prakhin Foundation will present a monetary award to the winners
Any aspect of Stalin's repressive regime may be presented in prose,
poetry, art or drama (play)

The submittal with the attached form should be sent to:

Dr. Paul B. Winkler
Executive Director
New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education
P.O. Box 500
Trenton, NJ 08625

If artwork arrangements should be made to receive piece but
form should be submitted

Also included is a brief history of the Stalin Regime

Entries should be submitted by February 1, 2009 and winner will be announced in the
Spring during a special program.

STALIN

1924 – 1953

In the early 1920s the Commissar of Nationalities, Stalin, and his crony Ordjonikidze provoked a revolt of Mensheviks, who legally ruled independent Georgia, and used it as a pretext to physically exterminate all political opposition, aristocracy, clergy and intelligencia in Georgia, making it a record holder for the highest percentage of victims of Communist mass murder in the USSR. There were mass arrests of observant religious people all over the country. Religious freedom was crushed.

Stalin used a relative lull in repressions and permission for private enterprise in 1924-28 to crush the best organized opposition in the Party led by Trotsky, who was exiled. Remaining “right” opposition was meek, and open debate in the Party ceased. Stalin became practically unchallengeable leader who cracked down on all passive opposition which rose because of Party’s economic and social failures. Private enterprises and foreign travel were shut down.

To hold power by covering failures in the industrial and agricultural policies and production, the repressions were intensified with two staged show trials in 1928 and 1930 against engineers and “bourgeois specialists” accused in sabotage and service to foreign powers, and liquidation of the peasantry as an independent productive and thus powerful segment of society.

The latter started with the expropriation of property, exile and physical liquidation of the most successful peasants, which led to a famine. This followed by the expropriation of bread and cattle from all other peasants and turning them into serfs in government controlled “collective farms”. This resulted in even a more severe famine. The total number of murdered directly or by the famine was between 8 and 12 million people.

Most Party and Government documents were made secret or confidential. Cheka under new name NKVD and new leaders was greatly expanded its personnel and the camp network (GULAG). Inmates were made into an effective slave force working under most severe killing conditions producing up to 25% of USSR’s economic output. E.g., polar towns Magadan and Norilsk were capitals of gold and nickel production, build and worked in by the convicts. Many of the camps became labor-extermination camps with their population in about 10 millions and average annual death toll of about 1 to 1.5 million.

Poisons, developed by Stalin’s scientists in NKVD’s LabX, were tested on inmates and used against undesirables. It is reported that Stalin’s scientists extracted growth hormone from healthy live orphans to rejuvenate aging Politburo. Orphans disappeared.

Inspired by Hitler’s purge of CD brown-shirts, his old guard that brought him to power, Stalin organized murder of his popular subordinate, Kirov, to resurrect “red terror” in 1934. The entire country was intimidated into paralyzing fear by a series of three overlapping staged trials which sent to death about a million devoted communists, military and NKVD itself.

Millions more were executed without trials to fulfill quotas for arrests of the “enemies of the people” sent to every town by the Stalin rebuilt NKVD. To please the Boss, local NKVD organized competitions between nearby towns. It is reported that in a large Siberian city every third resident was shot. And this happened all through the country.

Right before the war Gulag population swell further by those arrested in the territories newly occupied by the USSR. In a return to pure mass genocide in 1941 450,000 Soviet ethnic Germans from Volga region were deported in 19 days. From 1939 to 1949 Soviet Germans lost in repressions and deportations 400,000 people, or every third. In 1943-44 over a million of Karachi, Chechens, Kalmyks, Balkars and Crimean Tatars were rounded and deported with a high life loss in transit and exile.

It is reported that 110,000 former soldiers from soviet penal battalions were loaded into oil tankers and sealed inside. After 8 months travel back and forth on the Volga, camp inmates shoveled out of tankers a rotten jelly of human meat and bones.

After the WWII GULAG swell again, mainly by millions of freed soviet POWs, captured by the German Army and after liberation considered traitors by the NKVD. In addition millions of “enemies” arrested in the countries occupied by the USSR were sent to the camps and exile. To win the nuclear race inmates of Butugychag camp in Kolyma mined and enriched uranium ore. Inmates who worked in enrichment died in two weeks. 380,000 died in that camp. It had a specially build scientific lab complex. There are photos of inmates being shot and their skulls immediately cut in half by electric saws to study radiation effects on fresh brains. In many Siberian locations children used for baskets abundant human skulls to collect summer berries.

Repressions against Zionists, nationalist and religious Jews punctuate the entire Soviet history. However, Stalin was an egalitarian murderer – he murdered any group if it advanced his goals. But in 1948 came the big turn for the Jews. For Stalin it was convenient, because everyone knew some Jew and could be implicated in a concocted Jewish plot. There was also a lure of a geopolitical revenge. Stalin helped to create Israel, hoping to make it his satellite and a proxy in fight for the Middle East oil. However, Zionist leaders betrayed his hopes and allied with the US.

After a few fizzles in the late 1940s ending with just hundreds of murders, in 1951 Stalin found a perfect plan for the anti-Jewish campaign. The purge would be a genocide (by the latter’s definition) but would be dressed up as a struggle against a political and military enemy – the Zionists. Stalin masterfully maneuvered Soviet Jewish elite and left-wing western Jews to approve repressions against Zionists and Jewish nationalists (he knew that any Jew could be denounced as a nationalist). After purging MGB (new name for NKVD) of the Jewish personnel, Stalin and his clique arrested leading doctors, most of them Jews, and in 1953 accused them in a plot to murder Soviet leaders by medical maltreatments on the orders of the western intelligence services. Mass anti-Jewish campaign was organized in the press and at public meetings. Thousands of Jews were fired and waited for arrests. Plans for the mass deportation with 50% transit mortality leaked from the top. Discussions of the details of the plans also became known.

However, Stalin conspired with each of his most powerful subordinates against all others, to purge them in overlapping blows hidden in the new giant wave of murder. They apparently realized this and assassinated Stalin, not to save the Jews but themselves. Because most of the top Soviet leaders were involved in various aspects of Stalin’s last murderous plan, they left a legacy of keeping it a great secret. However, millions of Jews were apparently saved in 1953.

Practically every modern tyrant studies Stalin’s and Hitler’s histories and works. Those who aspire to become tyrants do the same. Stalin was an evil genius of political intrigues, mass manipulation, murder, political and common, and all kinds of useful crime and vices.

References:

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- 7) Hochschild A. 2003. “The unquiet ghost: Russians remember Stalin”. Mariner Books, NY
- 8) Rashin A. 2003. “Why didn’t Stalin murder all the Jews?” Liberty, NY

